

SENIORS BOARD MEETING

November 8, 2018

Presiding: Selby Clark

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

Roll call:

Present: John Palmer, Ann Crowley, Carlos de la Torre, Ruth Becker, Joan Johnson, George Baker, Rebecca Dozier, Virginia Lootens, Tom Brombacher, Stan McCandless, Selby Clark

Absent: Judy Faulkner, Susan Davis, Candyce Beneke

Guest: Mardi Turner (Council) **Staff:** Toby Brooks, Susan White **Visitors:** Alida Drewes, John Barnes

Citizen's Comments:

Alida Drewes expressed several topics of concern:

- 1) Reference in *Essentials Magazine* (October edition, p. 3) to a "bullying culture"
- 2) The lack of a park within walking distance of her home.
- 3) Perception of unfairness in allocation of public funds in ways that do not benefit seniors
- 4) Protocol regarding asking questions to visitors.

Council Meeting Report: Mardi Turner

- 1) The Jennie Elizabeth Hughes Park (6446 Sewanee) had a successful ribbon-cutting service on October 30. The park is open. Gates are not locked.
- 2) Kevin Boyle was appointed to the vacant City Council seat.

Parks and Recreation Report: Susan White

- 1) The total project cost for Hughes Park will be just under \$500K with Friends of West U Parks contributing \$300,000, which is \$25K under the approved amount.
- 2) Trick or Treat was held in at Hughes park; "Fathers and Flashlights" was a sold-out success.
- 3) The 5K race in October 27 had 852 participants, raising \$32,000 for the Parks.
- 4) An update to the master plan for the parks (p. 37); readjust priorities.
- 5) The desk orientation in the Rec Center is recommended for modification, to create a "choke point," a measure to be taken out of safety and security concerns and enhanced customer service.
- 6) Judson Park – Needs shade for recreation area for children.
- 7) A Hike & Bike trail is under consideration with the Houston Parks Board for the CenterPoint easement on the Bellaire side/west of the railroad tracks (bordering Community Drive), part of a larger vision of "Beyond the Bayou."
- 8) Christmas tree lighting – December 3rd

APAC report [Aging Programs Advisory Committee, City of Houston¹]

www.houstontx.gov/health/aging-advisory.html

Virginia Lootens reported on the planned Thanksgiving “meal on wheels”

She is scheduled to attend the APAC steering committee meeting on November 15.

Good Neighbor Team

To meet next Thursday for signing of the Thanksgiving; cards made by volunteer Sharon Turner

Activities and Previews: Toby Brooks²

Fire Department tour held. Highlight included learning of the Iphone direct link to 911

Volunteer Luncheon November 13

Monster Mash – Ed Cooked – chef – 80 participants

Thanksgiving Day lunch- 50 people signed up; 11:30 November 22

Old Business: There was no old business

New business: There was no new business.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

Next meeting: December 13, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

¹ <http://www.h-gac.com/board-of-directors/advisory-committees/aging-programs-advisory-committee/default.aspx>

² George Baker wonders if an app could be made available for West U events. (There is an app: GoRequests for information about city services and administration, but it does not provide a schedule of upcoming events).